UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6/1/66

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Raupach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

PURPOSE:

To furnish information in Bureau files concerning Harold Weisberg and Edward Jay Epstein, who authored the books "Whitewash" and "Inquest" respectively, each dealing with the findings made by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

HAROLD WEISBERG

Harold Weisberg and his wife, Lillian Stone Weisberg, jointly own a 14 acre tract of land in Hyattstown, Maryland, upon which they operate the Coq d'Or Farm whose principal business is raising of pheasant-chickens, Rock-Cornish game hens, waterfowl and other poultry and the sale of poultry and eggs.

Bureau files contain numerous references to the Weisbergs. The Department of State, in a report dated April 28, 1947, showed that Harold Weisberg was an employee of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee from September, 1936, to October, 1939, and was discharged for permitting certain information to leak to the press. This report sets forth that Senator La Follette stated that Weisberg had been dismissed for a breach of trust involving the release of confidential information to newspapers, and the Senator was quite certain the newspaper involved was The Daily Worker.

62-109090

NOT RECORDED

Weisberg was one of ten employees fired summarily by the State Department in June, 1947, because of suspected communist or communistic sympathies. He was later allowed to resign without prejudice, but was not restored to his job. His wife, Lillian Stone Weisberg, was investigated under the provisions of Executive Order 9835

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in 1948, and the Civil Service Commission advised in October, 1948, she had been retained. At that time, she was a clerk in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Her name had been carried on the active list of members of the Washington Book Shop Association and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action during December, 1947, and she was listed as an active member of the Washington League of Women Shoppers during January, 1941. Informants contacted during the investigation of Weisberg's wife advised that Harold Weisberg had been an associate of Maurice Helperin, who was involved in Soviet espionage conspiracy.

In 1961, Weisberg and his wife filed a claim against the Government under the Federal Tort Claims Act in the amount of $9,950 for damages allegedly sustained by them in their poultry business as a result of low-flying helicopters. This case was tried and court directed judgment in favor of the Weisbergs for $750.

In a letter dated May 23, 1966, to the Director, Weisberg enclosed a copy of his book "Whitewash" and made reference to quotations from the Director's testimony and that of FBI Agents and stated he believed these required "immediate and unequivocal explanation." He submitted three questions which pertain to testimony concerning the number of shots fired and he questioned the results of our Laboratory examination of the bullets.

EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN

Bureau files indicate that one Edward J. Epstein, born December 6, 1935, described as a student residing at 121 Wright Road, Rocky Avenue Centre, New York, traveled as a tourist in the Soviet Union in 1958.

Our files also indicate that in 1955, Edward J. Epstein, a

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student at Cornell University, complained that a telephone conversation between him and another student had been tape-recorded by a member of an investigating committee connected with the Student Council of Cornell University. The Committee was looking into campus election irregularities. The facts were submitted to the Department for possible violation of Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications and the Department declined prosecution.

In a Washington Post article dated May 29, 1966, referred-to-below, Epstein is described as a candidate for a Doctor of Philosophy Degree at Harvard University and his book was written as his Masters thesis while at Cornell University.

ACTION:

Bureau files are being expeditiously reviewed in order to determine the complete facts to resolve any alleged discrepancies which were mentioned in an article appearing in the Washington Post, May 29, 1966, captioned, "An Inquest: Skeptical Postcript to Warren Group's Report on Assassination." This Post article was based on a review of the books authored by Weisberg and Epstein.

Bureau files are also being expeditiously reviewed in order to determine the facts concerning the items mentioned in Weisberg's letter of May 23, 1966.

Memoranda are being prepared setting forth recommended action in each of the above matters.